

Alaska Monthly Fire Potential Outlook

Forecast:

- Alaska is entering fire season, though a bit slowly in the northern portion. The forecast for May is to have lower than normal fire potential for much of the interior with a return to normal in June, July, and August.

Factors:

- The U.S. Drought Monitor shows an area of Abnormally Dry through the Anchorage area and Kenai Peninsula, extending west across Cook Inlet and onto the eastern slopes of the western Alaska Range. There is also an area of Abnormally Dry over the Panhandle. The rest of Alaska has had ample snowpack and will continue to slowly recharge ground water. Temperatures have been cool, but are forecasted to begin warming into the upper 40s and even low 50s for much of the state in the next couple of weeks. This will rapidly accelerate the melting process.
- CPC outlook maps are forecasting warmer than normal conditions for the entire state for the summer. Wetter conditions are also expected to be likely for much of Alaska, with the exception being the Panhandle and a small portion of the SE mainland. These forecasts seem likely since many different forecast models are indicating these same trends. Overall, there are currently no reliable indicators that tell whether the season will be active or slow.



- Calculations of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating system have started for a few stations on the Kenai Peninsula and around the Matanuska Valley and Anchorage Bowl. Fuels remain fairly unburnable due to recent precipitation.